

Rivers Statement

Per CEA 2/14/67

I have noted the statement by the leaders of the National Student Association concerning the help the Association has received from the Central Intelligence Agency for the purpose of countering Communist domination of student associations throughout the world. I have also noted the acknowledgement by the Department of State that efforts have been under way to taper off this assistance over the past two years. Gentlemen, we all know that the Communists, through the use of world-wide front organizations, have made every effort to control people and ideas. Since the end of World War II, they concentrated on student organizations and by 1950 were successful to the point that they had little opposition. Students in the United States were quick to recognize the situation and they sought appropriate help. I do not feel that the American people should have conceded a Communist victory by default. The record will show that the courage and dedication of these students combined with the nominal support they received in comparison with the enormous Communist effort have succeeded in reducing this threat to student organizations in the free world.